

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 00929 01 OF 02 291045Z

12

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 DLOS-04 OFA-01 EB-07 ACDA-05 EA-07

AID-05 SAL-01 /099 W

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R 251020Z FEB 76

FM A EMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4379

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KATHMANDU 0929

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORL, NP

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: NEPAL'S PRIORITIES IN 1976

REF: STATE 037951

1. FOLLOWING RESPONSE IS PEGGED TO QUESTIONS IN PARA 7 REFTEL.

2. A. NEPAL'S PRIMARY POLITICAL OBJECTIVE IN MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY IS TO MAINTAIN, AND IF POSSIBLE INCREASE, RECOGNITION OF NEPAL'S INDEPENDENCE AND POLITICAL SOVEREIGNTY FROM ITS LARGER NEIGHBORS, INDIA AND CHINA. THE WHOLE THRUST OF NEPAL'S ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZATIONS MUCH AS THE UNITED NATIONS, AND VARIOUS AGENCIES, AS WELL AS THE NON-ALIGNED, IS AIMED AT BUILDING UP RECOGNITION AND A SUFFICIENTLY LARGE INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION TO ACT AS A DETERRENT AGAINST UNILATERAL ENCROACHMENT BY INDIA AND/OR CHINA. DURING 1976 NEPAL WILL SEEK TO ADVANCE BY PRESSING FOR SOME FORM OF RECOGNITION OR ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL, FIRST MADE A YEAR AGO BY THE KING, THAT NEPAL BE DECLARED AN INTERNATIONAL "ZONE OF PEACE".

IN THE FACE OF

CONTINUED INDIAN STONE-WALLING ON THIS

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PAGE 02 KATHMA 00929 01 OF 02 291045Z

PROPOSAL, NEPAL MAY DECIDE TO SEEK WIDER SUPPORT AT

THE COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN AUGUST  
AND PERHAPS ALSO AT THE UNGA.

3. NEPAL'S ECONOMIC PRIORITIES HAVE, IN PART, BEEN  
SATISFIED AS A RESULT OF THE DECISION TO INCLUDE NEPAL  
AMONG THE LIST OF THE "MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED" STATES.  
NONETHELESS, AS A LAND-LOCKED STATE, NEPAL CAN BE EXPECTED  
TO SEEK SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE NEEDS OF LAND-LOCKED  
IN BOTH THE UN, AS WELL AS IN THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE.  
SIMILARLY, NEPAL WILL SEEK SUPPORT OF ANY MEASURE WHICH  
WOULD GRANT SPECIAL RECOGNITION OR BENEFITS UPON THE  
"LEAST DEVELOPED".

4.B. ALTHOUGH NEPAL HAS ALWAYS RESISTED ATTEMPTS BY HER  
LARGER NEIGHBORS TO INFLUENCE POLICY, THE REALITIES OF  
HER GEOGRAPHIC POSITION REQUIRE THAT NEPAL BE SENSITIVE TO  
THE NEEDS OF BOTH INDIA AND CHINA. WHILE THERE IS LITTLE  
EVIDENCE THAT THE PRC EXERTS MAJOR DIRECT INFLUENCE ON  
NEPAL, THERE HAVE BEEN INSTANCES---SUCH AS NEPAL'S PRE-  
MATURE RECOGNITION OF THE SIHANOUK REGIME---WHERE NEPAL  
HAS ACTED IN ORDER TO SATISFY CHINA'S DESIRES OR INTERESTS.  
INDIA, ON THE OTHER HAND, EXERCISES A MUCH MORE ACTIVE  
INFLUENCE IN THE SHAPING OF NEPAL'S FOREIGN POLICY  
STANCE. INDIA IS REPORTED TO HAVE SERVED NOTICE ON  
THE GON THAT IN RETURN FOR CONTINUED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE,  
NEPAL'S SUPPORT ON QUESTIONS INDIA DEEMS IMPORTANT TO ITS  
OWN INTERESTS IS EXPECTED. THESE QUESTIONS WOULD INCLUDE  
SUPPORT FOR INDIA CANDIDACY IN INTERNATIONAL BODIES,  
AS WELL AS MORE  
MUTED NEPALESE POLICY TOWARDS A  
NUCLEAR FREE ZONE IN SOUTH ASIA AND THE RIGHTS OF  
TRANSIT FOR LAND-LOCKED STATES. NEPAL DOES NOT EXERT SIG-  
NIFICANT INFLUENCE ON OTHER STATES, ALTHOUGH IT IS, BY  
AND LARGE, A MODERATING ELEMENT WITHIN THE COUNCILS OF  
THE NON-ALIGNED.

5. C. NEPAL DOES NOT FULLY INSTRUCT ITS DELEGATIONS  
TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND, WITH THE POSSIBLE  
EXCEPTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
ALLOWS ITS HEAD OF DELEGATION CONSIDERABLE LATITUDE  
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PAGE 03 KATHMA 00929 01 OF 02 291045Z

IN VOTING ON PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES.

IT HAS RECENTLY INSTALLED A DIRECT TELEX LINK WITH  
THE UNGA DELEGATION IN AN EFFORT, SO FAR UNSUCCESSFUL,  
TO OBTAIN GREATER CONTROL OVER THE ACTIONS OF ITS  
DELEGATION. NONETHELESS, DURING THE LAST GA, THE  
NEPALESE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTLY VIOLATED  
HIS GOVERNMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS ON THE KOREAN ISSUE,

FOR EXAMPLE, AND HAS TAKEN PRIVATE INITIATIVES COMPLETELY AT VARIANCE WITH HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES. THE TIME DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NEW YORK AND KATHMANDU, COUPLED WITH INADEQUATE COMMUNICATIONS LINKS COMPOUNDS THE PROBLEM. THE GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF THESE DIFFICULTIES AND WILL PROBABLY SEEK TO ISSUE MORE EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS UN DELEGATION IN THE FUTURE. IN OTHER CONFERENCES, SUCH AS UNESCO, DELEGATIONS ARE FULLY BRIEFED ON GENERAL GUIDELINES. NEPALESE DELEGATIONS NOW, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE INSTRUCTED TO ABSTAIN ON ALL MIDDLE EAST ISSUES. IN SOME CASES IN THE PAST, NEPALESE DELEGATIONS HAVE BEEN TOLD "WHEN IN DOUBT, VOTE AS INDIA VOTES ; ALTHOUGH THIS HAS WORKED FAIRLY WELL IN PARACTICE, THE SYSTEM HAS BROKEN DOWN IN CONFERENCES SUCH AS THE INTER-NATIONAL WOMENS' YEAR IN MEXICO RITY WHERE NEPAL JOINED IN ACCEPTING RADICAL DECLARATIONS IN VIOLATION OF THOSE INSTRUCTIONS.

6. D. AMBASSADOR UPADHYAYA, NEPAL'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, HAS NO KNOWN POLITICAL BASE WHICH HE CAN FALL BACK ON IN THE FACE OF HIS KNOWN VIOLATION OF HIS INSTRUCTIONS. A FORMER LEADER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN NEPAL, UPADHYAYA HAS REPORTEDLY SEVERED HIS LINKS WITH THE PARTY AND JOINED THE KING'S MOVEMENT. NONETHELESS, HE IS CLEARLY NOT ALWAYS UNDER THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S CONTROL. OTHER HEADS OF DELEGATIONS ARE MORE OFTEN THAN NOT CHOSEN SPECIFICALLY SO THAT THEY CAN BE CONTROLLED. NONE, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, HAVE INDEPENDENT POLITICAL POWER.

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 00929 02 OF 02 280850Z

12

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 DLOS-04 OFA-01 EB-07 ACDA-05 EA-07

AID-05 SAL-01 /099 W

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R 251020Z FEB 76  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4380

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KATHMANDU 0929

7. E. THE GOVERNMENT, EXPECIALLY THE PROFESSIONS  
IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, ARE FREQUENTLY RECEPTIVE  
TO US REPRESENTATIONS. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT IN  
MANY INSTANCES THEY HAVE ACCURATELY REPORTED THOSE  
REPRESENTATIONS WITH A POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION. THIS  
IS NOT TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS RE-  
SPONDED TO THE POINT OF REVERSING ITS LONG-STANDING  
POLICY OF NEUTRALITY ON ISSUES, SUCH AS KOREA OR THE  
MIDDLE EAST. WE HAVE BEEN REASONABLY SUCCESSFUL IN  
ASSURING THAT THAT NEUTRAL POLICY HAS NOT BEEN ERODED;  
IT IS UNREALISTIC, HOWEVER, TO THINK THAT WE CAN PUSH  
NEPAL INTO ACCEPTING POLICIES IN VIOLATION OF HER  
NEUTRAL, AND WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE HER TRULY NON-  
ALIGNED POSITION. THE HOST GOVERNMENT IS QUITE AWARE  
OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO KEY MULTILATERAL ISSUES,  
AS WELL AS THE RELATIONSHIP SUCH QUESTIONS HAVE WITH  
OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. BY AND LARGE NEPAL ACCEPTS  
THIS INTERRELATIONSHIP WITHOUT RANCOUR AND MULTI-  
LATERAL ISSUES CAN BE READILY DISCUSSED WITH NEPALESE  
OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS.

8. NEPAL DOES NOT USUALLY SEEK OUR SUPPORT ON SPECIFIC  
MULTILATEAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE GON. ON THE  
ZONE OF PEACE QUESTION, HOWEVER, NEPAL ASKED OUR VIEWS;  
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PAGE 02 KATHMA 00929 02 OF 02 280850Z

ON THE ISSUE OF NEPAL'S RECOGNITION AS A "MOST SERIOUSLY  
AFFECTED NATION", IT REQUESTED "WHATEVER ASSISTANCE WE  
COULD PROVIDE" AND NEPAL HAS IN THE PAST SOLICITED  
US UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR POSITION AS A "LANDLOCKED"  
COUNTRY IN LAW OF THE SEA NEGOTIATIONS.  
CARGO

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## Message Attributes

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